

To Members of the Education Committee:

Please support HB 5283. After far too long Agriculture Education is finally able to be on equal footing with the other school choice options. It is important to support this area of education that has such a high success rate but is burdened with an unequal reimbursement structure that limits its ability to serve students. Ag Education has a wholistic approach that magnifies the students abilities and allows them to gain ever more confidence in their secondary education. I have had the distinct honor of working in agriculture for my entire life and have served on the Housatonic Valley Regional High School Advisory Committee for decades. Understanding the potential of the program, how it supports students and their communities, has convinced me that CT should support this program equal to other choices. This bill answers many of the issues that limits this program and opens up many opportunities for our student.

Thank you for your support of HB 5283 and insuring that Connecticut has the ability and talent to continue its vital agricultural industry well into the future.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Freund
Dairy Farmer
East Canaan, CT